

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 16348 071303Z

43

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 DHA-02 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 AID-05 /078 W

----- 115290

R 071125Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9278

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16348

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJECT: INSURGENTS BESIEGE BPP OUTPOST IN NAN PROVINCE

1. IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 3 AUGUST, AN ESTIMATED 50 COMMUNIST TERRORISTS (CT) SURROUNDED A REMOTE BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) OUTPOST IN PUA DISTRICT OF NAN PROVINCE. THE OUTPOST, SITUATED AT BAN DAN (QB 269538) ONLY FIVE KILOMETERS FROM THE THAI/LAO BORDER, IS MANNED BY 30 MEN FROM BPP PLATOON 518. ALTHOUGH NO ALL-OUT EFFORTS WERE MADE BY THE CT TO OVERRUN THE OUTPOST THEY KEPT UP CONSTANT PRESSURE AGAINST IT, AND BY 5 AUGUST HAD INCREASED THEIR STRENGTH TO APPROXIMATELY 200.

2. RESPONDING TO RADIO CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE, ROYAL THAI ARMY (RTA) SPECIAL FORCES STATIONED AT BAN BUAK YA (QB 282483), ABOUT SIX KILOMETERS SOUTH OF BAN DAN, MOUNTED A RELIEF OPERATION AND ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO BREAK THROUGH THE CT ENCIRCLEMENT OF THE BPP OUTPOST. THE SITUATION IMPROVED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF BPP REINFORCEMENTS FROM CHIANG MAI AND RTA CAVALRY DIVISION TROOPS, ALSO OPERATING IN PUA DISTRICT, IN THE BAN DAN AREA ON 5 AUGUST.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 16348 071303Z

HOWEVER, THE CT STILL SURROUNDED THE OUTPOST. BY

6 AUGUST, THE RTG FORCES WERE IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION AND THE RTA REPORTING THAT THE CT HAD "EVAPORATED," CONSIDERS THE INCIDENT CLOSED. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED FOR EITHER THE CT OR RTG SECURITY FORCES DURING THE THREE-DAY SEIGE.

COMMENT: BAN DAN AND BAN BUAKE YA ARE LOCATED JUST TO THE EAST OF THE NAN RIVER (NAM NAN) IN MOUNTAINOUS, JUNGLE TERRAIN. BAN DAN IS ONLY 14 KILOMETERS SOUTH-EAST OF BAN HUAI KON (QB 178650), THE SCENE OF A MAJOR CT VICTORY WHEN AN ESTIMATED 200 INSURGENTS OVERRAN A REINFORCED PLATOON OF THE RTA CAVALRY DIVISION ON 9 APRIL, KILLING 17 AND WOUNDING 24 OF THE GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS. THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 800 ARMED CT IN COMMUNIST PARTY OF THAILAND AREA 14, WHICH ENCOMPASSES THAT PORTION OF NAN PROVINCE EAST OF THE NA RIVER (MAENAM NAN) VALLEY AND NORTH OF THE QB 0012 GRID LINE. THE CT HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN BAN DAN AND BAN BUAKE YA FOR SOME MONTHS. THE BAN BUAKE YA SPECIAL FORCES BASE WAS THE TARGET OF CT HARASSING ATTACKS ON 4 MAY, 21 MAY AND 2 JUNE, AND 27 MAY FIFTEEN CT SOLICITED INTELLIGENCE ON BAN DAN AND BAN BUAKE YA DEFENSES FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS. THE ATTACKS ON BAN BUAKE YA COUPLED WITH INFORMATION PROVIDED BY VILLAGERS MAY HAVE BEEN DECISIVE IN FAVOR OF THE CT TESTING THE BPP BAN DAN OUTPOST IN A MAJOR ENGAGEMENT.

WHITEHOUSE

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